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LIBRARY

LOOKOUT

## LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Issued Quarterly by the West Virginia  
Library Commission  
Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary

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### LIBRARY COMMISSION STAFF

Owing to Miss Johnson's and Mrs. Moore's resignations the January copy of the Library Lookout was omitted. Both positions now have been filled and the new staff has prepared the material for this issue. The new executive-secretary is Miss Dora Ruth Parks, who left the librarianship of the Nantahala Regional Library in Western North Carolina to come to West Virginia. Miss Parks has had several years of experience in public, county, and regional library work.

Miss Frances Price came to the Commission from the Arthurdale High School to replace Mrs. Moore. Miss Price is a graduate in Library Science from the University and has had experience as a teacher and librarian in several high schools. Both Miss Parks and Miss Price are enthusiastic about their duties and the work of the Commission will go forward satisfactorily under their leadership.

I feel quite relieved now that the headquarters is in such capable hands, that the library bill has become law, and that the Commission's budget has been increased for the next biennium. The increment will not permit as much expansion as was hoped

but services can be expanded to a certain extent. More will be said about the law and the budget on other pages.

Sincerely,

*W. P. Kellern*

NEW LIBRARY BILL BECOMES LAW

Three outstanding differences in the provisions of the new library law for West Virginia are:

- (1) County Courts, County Boards of Education, or governing bodies of municipalities, may maintain a public library from funds derived by taxation.

Appropriations may be from

(a) General fund

or

(b) Special levy.

- (2) Establishment of regional libraries.  
Two or more counties may by action of their governing bodies establish and maintain a regional library under contract to which all agree.

- (3) Contract with existing library.

(a) Governing body may in lieu of supporting an independent public library, enter into a contract with existing library, and make annual payments of money to such library, whose books shall be available without charge to all persons living within area represented by such governing authority.

- (b) School board may contract for school library service from existing public library which shall agree to furnish books to a school or schools.

Copies of the new law are available from the Library Commission.

A lot of good work was done to get this law passed. The Library Commission would like to know how your community went about getting the legislature informed. This information can be used in the next effort for State Aid for Public Libraries.

#### LIBRARY COMMISSION APPROPRIATION INCREASED

Appropriation for the West Virginia Library Commission was increased at the recent session of the legislature from \$10,000 to \$16,350 for each year of the biennium. This increase will permit full employment of a clerical assistant at headquarters and will mean twice as much for books. Book purchases will be directed toward traveling library collections to be used by public libraries throughout the state and aimed at stimulation of public library development on county or regional basis.

#### SURPLUS PROPERTY

West Virginians should be deeply interested in the efforts being made by the American Library Association to procure the surplus books which will be in the Army camp libraries at the end of the war and other surplus properties which may be of value to libraries. Some county libraries already have purchased Army trucks and have converted them into satisfactory bookmobiles.

The American Library Association has presented a plan of distribution acceptable to the Army and the Surplus Property Board and is now engaged in securing support for it in Congress. The proposal provides that surplus Army books be used in promoting the extension of library facilities to rural areas. According to the present plan the books would be allocated to the states on the basis of rural population. In order to make these books readily available the A.L.A. has proposed that Congress make an appropriation of one dollar a volume to be used during the first year and fifty cents a volume for each of the next four years.

If the plan is approved by Congress, the West Virginia Library Commission will receive for distribution within the state, several thousand books and dollars. The state plan for distribution will doubtless require some support from the local area in which the books and money are to be placed.

Several articles in the March, 1945 issue of the A. L. A. Bulletin contain information regarding the surplus book plan. Additional information may be secured there.

Please send the West Virginia Library Commission full lists of surplus property which your library will need.

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LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Delegates from thirty-three states met in Chicago on January 19 and 20 to help the A. L. A. to complete plans for raising \$105,000.00 to finance a four-year program of library development. This program definitely relates, among other things, to the plan to secure the surplus Army books. The objectives are:

- (1) To maintain a representative of libraries in Washington under the direction of the A. L. A.:
  - (a) To help secure Army camp library books and equipment primarily for rural library service, when this property is no longer needed by the Army.  
make
  - (b) To help/other federally owned surplus property, including books, available to college and university libraries, public libraries, state library extension agencies and other publicly supported or tax exempt libraries.
  - (c) To provide federal agencies with information concerning the nation's needs for improved and extended library service.
  - (d) To help interpret to federal agencies the needs and functions of libraries of all kinds.
- (2) To enable the American Library Association to carry on a national public relations program directly and indirectly in support of these and related objectives.

Mr. W. P. Kellam, Librarian, West Virginia University has been appointed as state director in West Virginia. A committee is being formed to communicate with every librarian and trustee in West Virginia and to give them an opportunity to contribute. The drive has been set for the month of April. Let's exceed our quota of \$600.00 for the four year period.

### WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Library Journal February, 1945, includes a report by Miss Reese, Secretary, of the thirtieth annual meeting of the West Virginia Library Association. Some of the high lights are enumerated.

Remarks were made by Dr. Arnett on work of pioneer librarians in establishing the State Association.

Madison College's assumption of the responsibility of "teaching students how to learn" as one of the four aims of the institution, was related by Dr. John Van Male in his discussion of the "College Library's Job".

Need for State aid and increased local support for public libraries was emphasized by Miss Johnson, who also showed that 63 per cent of the population of West Virginia is without library service.

Dr. Clark spoke for the layman and emphasized needs for improving library service. He included, "courage as a quality which will make librarians convincing", "wide awake staffs", and "library boards that have vision and planning ability".

Dr. Ralph Munn in speaking of the "ways in which the public library and the school library can cooperate", said that possibly the school library is the responsibility of the board of education but the school library and the public library should cooperate and coordinate their work. He referred to the pamphlet "Schools and Public Libraries; Working Together in School Library Service" by the joint committee of the N.E.A. and the A.L.A.

Business included adoption of a revised constitution and election of officers:

W. P. Kellam-- West Virginia University,	President
Virginia Ebeling--Wheeling Public Library	Vice-president
Florence K. Reese--West Virginia University	Secretary
Genevieve Gibson--East High School, Huntington,	Treasurer

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ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE  
WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION?

\* \* \* \* \*

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Miss Antoinette Renner, State Chairman, Children's Librarians Association has asked that the following letter from Miss Frances Clarke Sayers, be brought to the attention of West Virginia librarians:

"To the Children's Librarians:

If this were  
Information Please, I should ask this  
question: What have the following organi-  
zations in common?

The National Council of American Soviet  
Friendship  
The United Chinese Relief  
The Woman's National Committee for De-  
vasted Europe  
The Office of War Information  
The Society of Friends  
The American Library Association

Just this! All of these organizations  
recognize, as never before, the importance  
of children's books in the lives of child-  
ren.

Each in its way plans to use children's  
books as the first step in making life  
inviting to the war-exploited children of  
the earth. You children's librarians are  
responsible, in a large measure, for this  
recognition of the force of a book upon  
the spirit of a child. You in your child-  
ren's rooms were the first to demonstrate  
it. Your influence has spread to pub-  
lishers, teachers, authors and illustrators,  
parents and book-sellers. And now a new  
and far-flung recognition of your value is  
at hand. It is the time, therefore, to

stand together, to claim your glory and increase the influence of your work. It can best be done through your professional organization, which is the Children's Library Association. It is the world that needs you now. Therefore I ask that when you get your membership blank you study it (it needs to be studied) and be sure that you indicate on it your wish to become a member of the Children's Librarians Association. The greatest opportunities ahead."

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ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE  
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION?

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FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

"State wide groups are variously known as Friends, Citizens, or Better Library Movement. Such a group of citizens are men and women who become acquainted with the services of the library and help to interpret the library's program to the community. When the need for action arises, the group is in effect a standing army, already informed and interested. It is not a pressure group but a serious and deliberately working body of citizens who are attempting to reinforce the claims of public library trustees for a reasonable share in the local community's financial resources."

Better Library Movement in West Virginia  
selected new officers October 6, 1944:

Mrs. J. R. Romine, 244 Main St., Clarksburg,	President
Mrs. E. S. Maclin, Montgomery,	First vice-president
Mrs. R. I. Roudebush, 2849 Collis Avenue, Huntington,	Second vice-president
Mrs. O. L. Stewart, 119 Nicholas, Clarksburg,	Secretary
Mrs. F. E. Rabel, St. Marys,	Treasurer

Friends of Libraries, Huntington:

Last fall Huntington elected the following officers for it's newly organized "Friends of the Library of Cabell County":

H. R. Pinckard, editor of the Herald- Advertiser,	President
Mrs. T. E. Brogan,	Secretary
Mr. I. I. Hirschman,	Treasurer

Mrs. R. I. Roudebush, chairman of the organization committee said the "Objective is to promote the mutual interests of the library and the citizens of Huntington." The board of directors with staggered terms of office are : Mrs. Brogan, Mrs. L. B. Gang, Mrs. Hirschman, Mrs. Carl Prichard, Mrs. Otis G. Wilson, Mrs. C. L. Cavendish, H. P. Dean, Dr. Klinger, Miss Estha Nash, Dr. Walter E. Vest, Rabbi Lawrence A. Block, S. Wirt LaLance, Mr. Pinckard, Harry Scherr, and D. C. Tomkies. Mrs. Madalyn Bradford, librarian, and Olin C. Nutter, Superintendent of schools, are ex-officio members of the new board.

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS, ON LIBRARY ORGANIZATION, ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION.

1. Post War Standards for Public Libraries
2. Moshier, The Small Public Library
3. Rossell, Public Libraries in the Life of the Nation
4. Hall, Library Trustee
5. Quigley, Portrait of a Library
6. The Equal Chance

#### NEWS FROM OUR BORROWERS

Shepherdstown--"We again turn to you for help. We have a patron who wishes to place as a memorial, in our library, a book or books, about music." The Commission was requested to suggest suitable titles.

Richwood--"...request for some information on the following: W. Va. Welfare Law, Social Security Act (Fed.), Social and Economic Problems and Community Health."

Lewisburg--"Are you planning to send a Children's Library also for the summer? Last summer at our Story Hour we had an attendance averaging 25 for the ten weeks. We should want this Library to be sent about June 1 this year. Already many of the children are asking if we are to have a Children's Hour this summer."

South Charleston--"Could you send me any literature that we could use for "book selection"? We want to get some new books and are much in need of guidance."

Remney--"As Librarian of the W. Va. school for the Deaf, I am interested in having new reading opportunities for the students. Is it possible for us to use your traveling library boxes?"

Sand Fork--"I want to tell you about one husband and wife who read our books regularly. They live so far up a holler you couldn't stick a butcher knife up it, to put it in Mountainer vernacular and each read a book a week. They've read over 60 books since we received this 50 just returned four month ago. Can you imagine what this library is doing for just these two people."

#### HAVE YOU EXAMINED

\*1. "The Library and the Teacher of Home Economics" by Hene and Pritchard. A new book in the series, "Experimenting Together". American Library Association, 75¢.

"Appendices include a core collection of books for home economics and a suggestive list of sixty books of fiction emphasizing individual, family, and social relations.

2. A helpful pamphlet for Families of Returning Veterans in "He's Back" issued by the Surgeon General's Office, United States Army.

3. "America's Greatness," a bibliography by Kiwanis International. Copies of the list can be secured free from Kiwanis Int'l, 520 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois.

\*4. "Possible Development of Film Service through Collaboration of Schools and Libraries" by W. P. Kellam in the West Virginia School Journal for February, 1945. Mr. Kellam gives a very good picture of future development of library service for West Virginia, as a whole.

5. The folder "United Nations Study Kit" describes some very valuable material on the United Nations which is available at reasonable cost. This material is up-to-date and will prove especially useful in studying about these countries. United Nations Information Office, 610 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, N. Y.

\*6. "School Libraries for Today and Tomorrow, Functions and Standards", prepared by The Committee on Post War Planning of the A. L. A. and the American Association of School Libraries. Available from A. L. A., \$1.00.

\*7. "For the Children's Bookshelf, a Booklist for Parents", U. S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Publication 304 Washington, D. C., 10¢.

8. The article in New York Times for March 11, describing American libraries in Australia. The collections are made up of titles which will give a picture of American life.

\*Available at the Library Commission

" ON DEFENDING THE FREEDOM TO READ  
IN LIBRARIES"

Mr. Leon Carnovsky, chairman, A. L. A. committee on Intellectual Freedom asked that the following information be brought to the attention of West Virginia libraries:

"Every librarian hates censorship. His decision to add a book or periodical to the collection is not arbitrary but is based on the conviction that the book is of value and interest to his patrons. Once he has made his decision in accordance with that policy, he should not be overruled by persons who want to prevent others from reading what they themselves disapprove of. This type of interference in library operations is frequently accompanied by threats so serious as to force the librarian to accede to it. Whenever he does accede he reluctantly restricts the freedom to read. Such action is directly contrary to the principles he believes in; that's why he hates censorship.

The A. L. A.'s Committee on Intellectual Freedom has been empowered by the Executive Board and Council to compile a record of attempts, successful or not, to interfere with the provision of a book or magazine. We'd like to know:

Book or periodical affected  
Person or organization interfering  
Action taken or threatened by interfering agency  
Action taken or contemplated by the library

We shall not make this information public without your permission."

Please send all information to Leon Carnovsky, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois, the chairman of the Committee on Intellectual Freedom. Other members of the Committee are Mr. J. Periam Danton, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mr. Frederic G. Melcher, editor of Publishers' Weekly, New York City; Mr. Jens Nyholm, Librarian of Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; Miss Ruth Rutzen, chief of the circulation department, Detroit, Mich.; and Mrs. George H. Tomlinson, trustee of the Evanston Public Library, Evanston, Ill."

TWENTY-FIVE NEW BOOKS  
ON THE MODERN WORLD

Compiled by Frances Ann Price

(These may be borrowed from the Commission)

GENERAL

WORLD PEACE PLANS. Compiled by Julia E. Johnsen.

Cooley, Donald G. YOUR WORLD TOMORROW.  
Chase, Stuart. DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE.

India

Moraes, F. R. and Stimson, Robert.

INTRODUCTION TO INDIA

Mitchell, Kate L. INDIA WITHOUT FABLE.

Pacific

Johnson, Osa. BRIDE IN THE SOLOMONS.

United States Light Service

Floherly, John J. SENTRY OF THE SEA.

Africa

Wells, Carveth. INTRODUCING AFRICA.

Liberia

Hayman, Arthus I. and Preece, Harold.

LIGHTING UP LIBERIA.

WORLD WAR II

Stowe, Leland. THEY SHALL NOT SLEEP.  
Halsey, Margaret. SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS  
ARE SOLDIERS.

Poland

Adams, Dorothy. WE STOOD ALONE  
St. John, Robert. IT'S ALWAYS TOMORROW.

England

Norway, Nevil (Shute). PASTORAL.  
Savery, Constance. ENEMY BROTHERS

Holland

Norton, Andre. THE SWORD IS DRAWN.

Italy--North Africa

Kelley, Charles E. (Commando), Sgt., with  
Martin, Pete. ONE MAN'S WAR.

Pyle, Ernie. BRAVE MEN.

Pacific

Skidmore, Hobert Douglas. VALLEY OF THE SKY.

Alaska--Army Intelligence

Hall, Warner. EVEN JERICHO.

Iceland

Goodell, Jane. THEY SENT ME TO ICELAND.

Seabees

Huie, William Bradford, Lt. (j.g.) C.E.C.,  
U.S.N.R. CAN DO! THE STORY OF THE  
SEABEES

Poetry

THE NEW TREASURE OF WAR POETRY--1939 to 1943.  
Edited by George Herbert Clarke.

PT boats in action

Vetter, Ernest G., Lt. Comdr. U.S.M.R.  
DEATH WAS OUR ESCORT.

Dogs

Shurtleff, Bertrand. AWOL: K-9 COMMANDO.

KNOW WEST VIRGINIA

The library on the cover of this issue of Library Lookout is the Greenbrier Public Library at White Sulphur Springs. Mrs. Donna Kessinger was kind enough to send us the following sketch of the history of the library:

"The Greenbrier Public Library was started in White Sulphur Springs in August, 1914, by a resident, Mrs. Margaret Yullo Reed, with the sum of \$100, given by a guest of the Hotel, Miss Olivia Phelps Stokes.

It was located in rented rooms, and managed for the first few months by voluntary workers.

Shortly after the opening of the library a piece of land in the old Stage lot was given by the C. & O. Railway Company, and in 1920 with the help of funds left over from the war Canteen Service, the present building was erected. Under the name of the White Sulphur and Community House Association it was opened June, 1921. Since then a large auditorium has been added.

The first books were lent by interested friends. This small nucleus has been added to in various ways. Many books have been given, others bought from funds given for the up-keep of the library.

Miss Olivia Phelps Stokes was a good friend until her death. In addition to many gifts, she established a fund for buying books and dedicated to a sister Miss Caroline Phelps Stokes. The library now contains some 8000-9000 volumes."

"SIX MONTHS COLLECTIONS"

The stock of books at the Commission has grown to the point where we are able to lend collections of from 200 to 500 books for a period of six months to the public libraries in West Virginia.

These collections will be composed of books of general interest for both juvenile and adult borrowers. We suggest that the juvenile titles be made available to juvenile borrowers for vacation reading, and for circulation to individuals as a community service; and that all titles should be made available to rural borrowers by mail, by delivery through other agencies, or delivery by individuals. The object of these collections is the stimulation of interest for ultimate bookmobile service on a county wide basis.

If you wish to supply your borrowers with books by mail, you will need to use the special book postal rate which is 4¢ for the first pound and 1¢ for each additional pound or fraction of pound thereafter.

In case the supply of books is exhausted before we hear from you, we shall place you on the waiting list for a "six months collection" and will notify you when the books are available.

If you desire a "six months collection," please fill out the form on the next page and mail it to the West Virginia Library Commission. For those libraries which do not desire a large collection, the usual size traveling library is still available.

SIX MONTHS COLLECTION

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date you wish  
collection mailed \_\_\_\_\_

Size collection dosired \_\_\_\_\_